

## San Jose State University SJSU ScholarWorks

---

Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA)  
Newsletter

The SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

---

Summer 2019

# SJSU ERFA News, Summer 2019

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association, "SJSU ERFA News, Summer 2019" (2019). *Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA) Newsletter*. Paper 46.  
<https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa/46>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the The SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association at SJSU ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA) Newsletter by an authorized administrator of SJSU ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@sjsu.edu](mailto:scholarworks@sjsu.edu).

SJSU  
**ERFA**  
**News**

A Newsletter of the San Jose State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

*Inside . . .*

On a recent road trip, Joanne Rife reveals an old truth: the journey itself is as important as the destination (page 4). And John Pollock shows the unexpected problems that can occur to movie stars on the set (page 5).

## We Want You!

**By Gene Bernardini** (Humanities)

By the end of this month, more than a half-dozen people will have resigned from the ERFA Board this year. I am one of them. The others, including two who resigned this past December, are Peter Buzanski, Dennis Wilcox, Jo Bell Whitlatch, Wayne Savage, Bob Wilson and David Elliott. That number of resignations in one academic year is unprecedented. It has nothing to do with the personnel on the Board, nor the policies of the University administration—it's not even the fault of Donald Trump. It is sheer coincidence.

Separately and without knowledge beforehand, we simply decided to retire for different reasons—surprising everyone, including ourselves. I am one of the latter. Having retired from SJSU in 1998, I joined the ERFA Board a year later and held various positions over the years, including membership chair, president, and newsletter editor. I only recently came to the realization that this is my 20th year on the Board. Three others have served even longer: Buzanski, Wilson and Elliott. Clearly, it's time for new blood—new members to step up and help ERFA maintain ties with our colleagues and the university. That's where you come in.

Although there has always been a steady flow of new people

joining the board, it's sometimes been slow. We old-timers talked about the need to bring on new members, but we enjoyed the camaraderie too much to want to leave and make room for others. That's because the ERFA Board is less a committee than a coterie of friends, people from different departments who enjoy working together in a warm and supportive environment.

If you've ever thought you should be doing something more in retirement—and with like-minded, interesting

people—now's the time. The Board meets on the first Monday of each month for a total of eight meetings, from September to

December, and February to May. They are held on campus from 10-12 noon, with coffee, tea and refreshments.

Board members still have time to travel and pursue other interests and of course, the commitment is voluntary and altruistic. When people do an especially good job, we sometimes talk of rewarding them with a 10%

raise—until our treasurer reminds

*(Continued on Page 3)*



## calendar

Friday, Oct. 11, 2019

**Fall Luncheon**

**THE FLAMES RESTAURANT**

*Corner of 4th and San Fernando*

Friday, Dec. 6, 2019

**Holiday Celebration**

**MLK LIBRARY,**

**Rms. 225-229**

*1-3 PM*

# Remembering Robert D. Clark

By Peter Buzanski (History)

When a large number of SJSU faculty who were hired in the 1950s and 60s are asked who they consider their favorite university president, they reply overwhelmingly, "President Robert D. Clark."

To understand this phenomenon we need to remember that Clark was the first SJSU president hired under the terms of the Master Plan of Higher Education approved in December 1959. This plan created the California State University,

which consolidated the individual state colleges into a single system with a Board of Trustees headed by a chancellor. This Board henceforth hired the presidents, who had formerly been appointed by the California Superintendent of Education.

Robert Clark was the first to replace John T. Wahlquist, who was the last president to head San Jose's teacher college. Clark made it clear that he did not intend for San Jose State College to continue in the same direction. In

his inaugural address to the faculty, he chose to speak of C.P. Snow's concern over our great cultural divide between the sciences on the one hand, and the humanities and liberal arts on the other, and he asked the faculty to seek to bring them, if not together, at least closer. Some of the older faculty, who had difficulty comprehending Clark's vision, became a minority who opposed many of his efforts, but they were unsuccessful. As his first administrative act, Clark abolished the system whereby the campus president himself appointed "heads" to manage departments. Instead, he asked the faculty of each department to



Robert Clark

to recommend to the president the department's choice for being the "chair," not the "head," of that department. With this act, a large number of former heads lost their positions and were now replaced with democratically elected leaders. Many of those previous heads who made up most of the opposition to Clark, retired quickly.

A second major goal that Clark initiated was an effort to bring town and gown closer. Clark's vision was for the college to look westward, toward the city of San Jose, and form closer ties with the business community and local government. What Clark began, others would continue.

By the late 1960s, the campus was embroiled in the turmoil of the Viet Nam war that escalated into a faculty strike. The system's chancellor, Glen Dumke, was only too willing to follow the wishes of then Governor Ronald Reagan to fire all of the strikers.

(Continued on Page 6)

## **SJSU ERFA Officers, 2017-18**

**President** -- Elba Maldonado-Colon

**Vice Pres.** -- Chris Jochim

**Secretary** -- Celia Bakke

**Treasurer** -- Abdel El-Shaieb

**Members at Large** -- Carmen Sigler

Bill McCraw

Jo Bell Whitlatch

**Academic Senate** -- Susan McClory

**Past President** ---- Ji-Mei Chang

## **Ex Officio Members**

**Newsletter** Gene Bernardini (Editor) and Clyde Lawrence (Layout/Design)

**Membership** Wayne Savage

**Consolations** Jill Cody

**Activities** Dolores Escobar-Hamilton

**Archivist**

Celia Bakke

Lonna Smith

**CSU-ERFA Reps**

Don Keeseey

Jackie Snell

Bob Wilson

Joan Merdinger

**Program Committee:** Carmen Sigler, Barbara Conry, Bill

McCraw, Jo Bell Whitlatch and Mary Jo Gorney-Moreno

**CSU ERFA State Council Delegate-at-Large**--David Elliott

**Webmaster**--Carol Christensen

**SJSU ERFA Office**

MacQuarrie Hall 438D

email: [celia.bakke@sjsu.edu](mailto:celia.bakke@sjsu.edu) • Telephone: (408) 924-2478

Visit the SJSU ERFA Website at [www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty](http://www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty)

Views and opinions expressed in this SJSU ERFA Newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the editor or of San Jose State University.

# Members express opinions on ERFA events

**By Mary Jo Gorney-Moreno**  
(Nursing)

At the beginning of this year, SJSU-ERFA decided to launch a survey of our members to discover their level of satisfaction with our annual events and to seek suggestions for future activities. Our Program Committee, led by Jo Bell Whitlatch, with technical support from Jennifer Redd, Director of eCampus, created a survey with data entry and analysis that was as scientific as we could make it.

Of the 328 email invitations sent out to ERFA members inviting them to participate, 90 people completed the survey, a response rate of 27.4%, which we are told is a very good response for this type of email survey. An additional 34 emails to ERFA members came back as undeliverable.

The major conclusions are as follows:

Those who attended our recent Fall and Spring Luncheons were most satisfied with the program speakers or performances. They also found the food quality to be good, but the event locations, not so much. Restaurant locations are always a problem since we have members living in different parts of

the Bay Area; what is convenient to someone living in Almaden Valley is not convenient for someone living on the Peninsula or in the East Bay, and vice versa. We will try to strike a balance of locations in the future.

The cost of the meals and events did not seem to be an issue, but we will continue trying to keep all activities reasonably priced.

The Holiday Reception, held in December at the MLK Library, received the highest of ratings with 75% describing their experience as excellent. However, the hours of the event were called into question because 3-5 pm on a Friday afternoon is not a

good time for negotiating traffic. Suggestions were to change the times to 11-2, or 12-2, or 1-3 pm. We decided to make the change to 1-3 pm for 2019.

The Spring Excursions for 2017 and 2018 were very highly rated by those who attended. Many ideas for future excursions were offered, and the program committee will consider these for future outings.

The ERFA Program Committee thanks all the respondents to our survey and encourages other members to offer their opinions on how to improve our activities. We are committed to following up on all the recommendations and suggestions.

## We Want You!

*(Continued from Page 1)*

us that 10% of nothing is still nothing. We've resigned ourselves to that. If you're willing to do likewise, please consider joining the Board. There are a variety of tasks to choose from and you can stay for one year, or twenty—as you like.

If you are interested in knowing more, please contact our incoming President, Chris Jochim, at [christian.jochim@sjsu.edu](mailto:christian.jochim@sjsu.edu) or by phone: (408) 966-4798.

## University and Academic Senate News

**By Susan McClory**  
(ERFA Senate Representative)

As usual in the spring, there is a flurry of activity in the Academic Senate. Besides the normal housekeeping resolutions, there were a number of interesting announcements and discussions.

At the final meeting of the 2018-2019 academic year, we learned that Governor Newsom's May budget revise included an 8% increase in funding for the CSU. By comparison, the UC system only got an additional 7%. One of the purposes of the additional funding is to help us deal with housing homeless and insecure students.

In March, I asked President Papazian how the University is responding to this problem. She reported that we have four case managers at *SJSU Cares* who work with students in crisis. Their main purpose is to put a roof over their heads, either

in our dorms or in rooms with Community Partners. There will be no parking areas set aside for those living in their vehicles because that only keeps them homeless.

Two other announcements were made. The AS will allocate \$20,000 to help support graduate student travel to conferences. And there will be a new Faculty/Staff dining room created in IRC 302 with a grand opening planned for August.

Some final news of interest is that SJSU had requested to expand its admission area boundaries to be in line with other local CSU campuses. But its proposal was denied. This may be because the development of three new CSU campuses are under consideration and one of them would be on the peninsula, near us.

I look forward to serving as your representative on the Academic Senate again next year.



## Remembrance of Things Past

Sharing memories with our members . . .

# Solo on a Great American Road Trip

**By Joanne Rife**

(University Relations)

Occasionally someone will ask me, "What did you do last summer?"

I reply, "Drove to Kansas."

There is always this pause. I can see the question rising in the questioner's mind. "Kansas?"

Another pause. "May I ask, Why?"

The reply should be, "Why not."

I had a reason. My daughter and son-in-law, for decades, have gone to Winfield, Kansas to attend the Walnut Valley Bluegrass Festival. Fifteen thousand people attend this festival. Ten thousand of them camp in the Walnut Valley Fairgrounds, cheek by jowl, motorhomes and trailers and tents.

The music goes on most of the night—up on stages and out in the campground—guitars, mandolins, fiddles, auto harps, banjos, dulcimers.

What's not to like?

So, I decided to go, driving my 20-foot motorhome, armed with my ukulele and curiosity about what is out there in "fly over" country. I drove on the Blue Highways as much as possible, staying off the interstates, through the cities and towns and villages, by the farms and ranches and wide-open spaces. I visited friends and family along the way but I was mostly interested in what I would discover on the road.

Off I went, south on I-5, turning

east at Bakersfield, over the Tehachapi Mountains, through the Mojave Desert. I crossed the border into Arizona and came to roost in Quartzite. It was August. There are acres and acres of empty RV parks in Quartzite in August. I camped in the shade of a saguaro—the only shade—with

sweating.

Back on the road again I headed due west, through these surprising little Kansas towns, mostly prosperous, making me think that all may be right with the world after all. People were invariably kind. They helped me with directions and recommendations,

gave me maps, shared BBQ dinners and sent me on with a wave and "Good luck."

I stayed several days in Great Sand Dunes National Park

in Colorado, a stunningly beautiful

place. The leaves on the aspens turned bright yellow. I camped in

Hovenweep

National

Monument, walking

among the 700-year-old towers built by the ancestors of today's Pueblo Indians.

I was back in the great open spaces of the west. One Nevada road went 27 miles, straight as an arrow. I never saw another vehicle.

Then home, which is the best place of all. I drove 4,249 miles, solo, meeting friendly people, seeing beautiful country. A great American road trip.

*(Ed. note: Joanne neglects to mention that she was 86 years old when she took this trip by herself last summer.)*



not another soul in sight. I worried about snakes but saw instead jack rabbits.

I drove through the hell of Phoenix freeways and east of the city discovered the Boyce Thompson Arboretum where I hiked in the broiling sun next to plants with attitudes. At the New Mexico/Texas border I camped for several nights in Guadalupe Mountains National Park, hiking trails through an ancient ocean fossil reef.

Then I drove into the hell of Dallas freeways—thank you, GPS—turning north to Kansas, where I spent a week listening to bluegrass music and, frankly,

## *Remembrance of Things Past*

*Sharing memories with our members . . .*

# My Life as a Movie Star

**By John Pollock** (English)

Well, maybe “movie star” is a bit of an exaggeration. “My 15 minutes before the cameras” would probably be a more accurate title here, but anyway here’s how it all came about.

Several years ago Penny and I were invited to stand in as extras in a music video filmed in Oakland. The video takes place in an art gallery, and the director was looking for several older, well dressed, distinguished looking people to wander about in the background, looking thoughtfully at the various artifacts on display, while the main action of the video occurs in the foreground. Since Penny and I met at least one of the three requirements the director was looking for, and since the lead singer happened to be someone

we’ve known for years as a close friend of our son, we ended up being part of the production.

In one scene, a waiter arrives carrying a silver tray, offering us old, pseudo-art patrons glasses of champagne, which we have to drink fairly quickly to keep the action moving briskly along. I expected we’d be drinking water, or at best Ginger Ale, but discovered the glasses were full of the real stuff. At the conclusion of the scene, the director decided he wasn’t quite satisfied with the way it had come across and called for a re-shoot.

Once again, the waiter arrived, and once again we all gulped down a second glass of the bubbly. And once again, the director was, for some reason, unhappy with the results. So we

repeated the process a third time

Not too surprisingly, drinking three glasses of champagne in rapid succession on an empty stomach left me feeling rather pleased with myself and everything around me. That’s when a small sculpture, part of the art gallery set, caught my eye, and I decided on the spot that I just had to own it. It turned out that the artist who had created the piece was in the wings, having dropped by to watch the filming, and was quite happy to accept my check so I could take the thing home with me that afternoon.

I wonder now how many other movie stars wake up the morning after they’ve performed before the cameras, asking themselves how in the world an unfamiliar artifact had mysteriously arrived in their home, something they never would have considered paying good money for in their normal state of mind.

## *In Memoriam*

• **Marion K. Richards** (English/ Humanities, ’88) died at her home in the Sequoias, San Francisco, on March 4, 2019, at age 93. She was born in Philadelphia on March 16, 1925, to a father who was a doctor, and a mother who was a mechanical engineer. As a child, Marion spent three years in Budapest while her father completed graduate work in surgery. Returning to public school in America, she once said that “the local public school found me a trial,” causing her to transfer to a convent school and ultimately a Quaker boarding school where her interest in language and literature flourished.

She graduated from Cornell University and received her MA from Columbia University. She married Leon Rachinsky, who was born in Kiev, but they changed their name to Richards upon the birth of their daughter, Nina. Leon died nine months after Nina was born, in 1955, and Marian never remarried. Marion taught at the University of Denver and Wayne State University before returning to Columbia to earn her Ph.D. SJSU offered her a job in 1957, when she moved permanently to California. At SJSU, she taught American literature and European literature in translation, and

broke the glass ceiling into the Humanities Department. She had a particular interest in the lives and works of Maxim Gorky and Ellen Glasgow.

During John Galm’s tenure as Chair of English, Marion served as Associate Chair and later as Associate Dean with Robert Sasseen. She also spent an exchange year at the University of Lyons, France, and twice taught in SJSU’s semester abroad in Bath, England.

She is survived by her daughter, Nina Richards Hill, who lives and works in Marin and dances with the “Don’t Quit Your Day Job” company.

# Chat Room . . .

Special news from and about our members.  
Edited by Gene Bernardini

This edition contains news about travels and activities taken from the membership renewal forms. Members are invited to send additional news about themselves to Gene Bernardini at [geebarnard@comcast.net](mailto:geebarnard@comcast.net) or by snail mail at 775 Seawood Way, San Jose, CA 95120

• **K.C. Leung** (Foreign Languages '01) visited Antarctica with his wife Alice in January, where they were welcomed by thousands of penguins. They boarded a ship at Ushuaia at the southernmost tip of Argentina, and set out for the Drake Passage, before eventually reaching the White Continent. Fortunately, they were blessed with good weather and calm seas throughout, encountering whales and various seabirds along the way. In Antarctica they did some hiking and, of course, a lot of photography (Alice's video is in Facebook). A high point of their trip was a visit to the U.S. Palmer Station (named after the discoverer of Antarctica) where scientists do research on climate change.

• **James Asher** (Psychology, '92) recently had a heart valve replacement. He says, "Our colleagues may like to know that the cardiology department at Kaiser earned an A+." Since Jim is not known to be an easy grader, that was great praise indeed.

• **Dennis Jaehne** (Communication Studies, '15) writes that he's "still training Department Chairs and on-boarding new faculty," while continuing to FERP.

• **Tai-Ran Hsu** (Mechanical Engineering, '16) suggests that SJSU-ERFA should offer a seminar on post-retirement 403bs or 437s, which he believes would be useful for colleagues planning to retire soon. He would also like to see planned tours of Bay Area high tech facilities and museums. If so, he says, "Please schedule these events on Fridays."

• **Sigurd Meldal** (Computer

Science, '15) visited a university in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia last October as a team member of the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET. Meanwhile, he continues to enjoy hiking the Bay Area back country and the Sierras, guided by his wife Kathy's extensive knowledge of both.

• **Mike McIntyre** (Geography, '87), at the age of 97, has gotten rid of his car, making it difficult to attend ERFA Luncheons, but he's still somewhat mobile with a walker. "Extensive naps keep me on the ball," he says. Some bad news: Mike lost his middle daughter, Kathy, to Lupus after a long illness, at age 68. Some better news: Mike is looking forward to a visit from Tom, the son of his good friend Larry Lee (from History, now deceased). Having grown up together with Mike's kids, Tom, with his wife and child, who have been living in Singapore and

Shanghai, promised to stop by and see him.

• **Kim Uhlik** (Recreation & Leisure, '11) has co-authored a book (with Joe Bannon) titled *Management Strategies* (Sagamore/Venture, 2018). He looked forward to attending the SJSU celebration of book authors last November with some satisfaction.

• **David Asquith** (Sociology, '10) spends his time in retirement refurbishing furniture and old wooden items. He also indulges in calligraphy, pen-and-ink drawing and photography. He calls himself "a confirmed amateur of various pursuits."

• **Gilbert Villagran** (Social Work, '16) spent 32 years working at the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency and 20 years as a part-time teacher of Social Work at SJSU. Now retired, he writes free-lance editorials on issues of social justice and human rights.

## An impactful four years

(Continued from Page 2)

This would have been easy to accomplish since California state law asserted that any government employee absent without a legitimate medical excuse could be fired. Clark had a much more liberal outlook and appointed a three-person committee to make recommendations to him as to the status of every striking faculty member. I was chosen as the chair of that committee and we found, by interpreting the word "absent" broadly, that, with one exception, all of the strikers were fulfilling their assignments and should be retained. The only "exception" was

the head of the faculty union who stated that when he was on strike, he was on strike, and therefore did nothing to fulfill his obligations. We could not recommend his retention, and he was dismissed, losing his seniority, his retirement, and all benefits.

Clark's presidential tenure flourished for a short-lived, but impactful, four-years. At the end of 1969, Clark could not resist an offer by the University of Oregon to become its president, but his accomplishments at SJSU loom large in retrospect and much of what Clark began was carried on by his successors.



## *A festive retirement party for several Board members . . .*



Bob Wilson and Wayne Savage (left) and Gene Bernardini, Ji-Mei Chang, and Jo Bell Whitlatch (right)



Gene Bernardini introduces our rarely-seen Newsletter graphics designer, Clyde Lawrence.

Our "Host-  
ess with the  
Mostest,"  
Carmen  
Sigler.



Nancie Fimbel (left) and Joan Merdinger (right) flank Norman and Jo Bell Whitlatch.

A lineup  
of usual  
suspects at  
the Spring  
Excursion to  
Oakland on  
April 3.





**Newsletter of the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association**  
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY  
One Washington Square  
San Jose, CA 95192-0210

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
San Jose, CA  
Permit No. 816

**Return Service Requested**

**2018-2019**

## ***ERFA Faculty Research & Creative Activity Awards***

**By Joan Merdinger** (Social Work)

At our Spring Luncheon, the two SJSU faculty recipients of this year's \$2500 awards were introduced and expressed their gratitude for ERFA's financial support. John Geng, Assistant Professor of Nutrition, Food Science & Packaging, spoke of his interest in developing convenient and accessible tools to encourage positive changes in health. His funds will go towards the purchase of heart rate variability (HRV) monitors for teaching and research. Yoon Chung Han, Assistant Professor of Design, will

use her funding to hire students to expand her work on the California Drought Project. In collaboration with her students, Dr. Han is creating data-driven designs, animations and interactive



installations that elicit audience participation to help educate the public about drought patterns.

If you'd like to keep the momentum going for the ERFA Research & Creative Activity Awards you can make out a check to "Tower Foundation," and on the Memo line include "ERFA Faculty Award." Please send your check to our Treasurer, Abdel El-Shaieb, 5023 Wilma Way, San Jose, CA 95124. The Tower Foundation is a 501(C)3 organization, and your donation is tax deductible. Thank you.